

Qualities of a Good Show Plant

While filing a box of begonia papers, we found a paper titled Judging Considerations. The information on the sheet gives a good, concise description of the characteristics of a good show plant. If anyone knows who wrote this collection of considerations, please let us know so that we can give credit to the author. This information can benefit growers, exhibitors, and judges. The information in parenthesis is information we have added that pertains to exhibiting plants in an ABS show.

Judging Considerations:

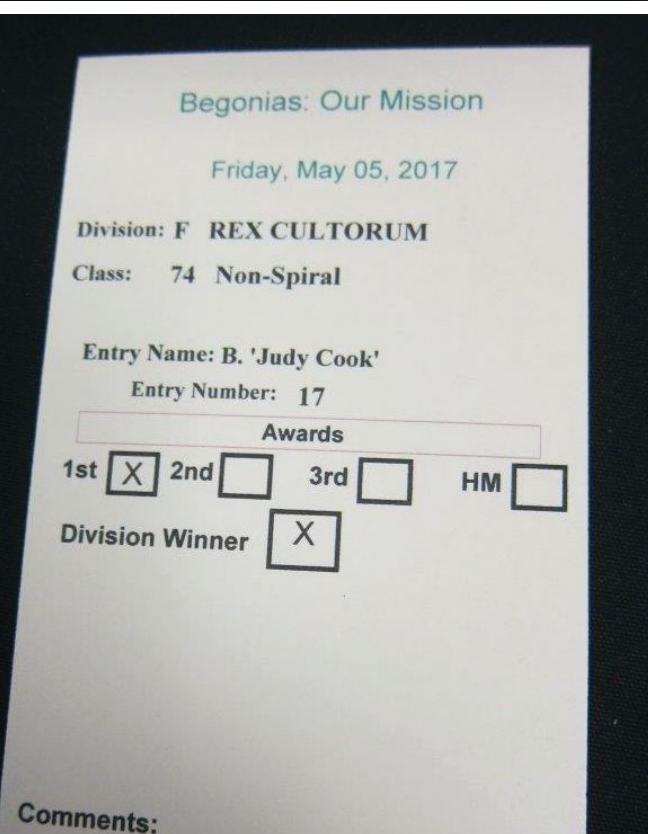
Plant Identification: The correct botanical name is present and legible.

[At ABS judged shows, labels must be removed from the pot or pushed down into the soil in the pot. The botanical name should be placed on the entry sheet and entry card.]

Cultural Perfection: The apical tip is present. Foliage is not damaged and overall specimen is well colored and formed. There is an expected variety of sizes of new begonia foliage versus the older developed leaves. The plant should be healthy and vigorous.

[The apical tip may be removed from the main stem or stems to encourage branching.]

Foliage: The foliage should be full





and abundant on most begonias. Those with typical or genetic sparseness of foliage should not be faulted. There should be no damaged foliage. Minor damage may be trimmed if following the form of the leaf and it must not be obvious. Trim just before a show to prevent a callous edging from forming.

Stem: The stems and petioles should be clean and undamaged. Even distribution of stems will create a balanced plant.

Color: The color is bright, clear, and unmarred and typical of the specific cultivar/species. Coloration patterns in the leaves might differ from one leaf to the next and the new growth may be different in color from that of the mature growth.

[Growing conditions and light can also affect color.]

Quantity/Quality of Blooms: A blooming begonia will have fairly even placement of blooms and a sufficient amount depending on the genetics of the plant. The colors should be clear and even with heavy substance.

[If it is not the blooming season for a variety, points should not be deducted. Semperflorens, Reiger, Chiemantha, boliviensis and its hybrids, and Tuberhybrida begonias must be in flower to be exhibited.]

Form: (overall) Is the plant balanced? Generally, the form of the plants is globular and compact in the rhizomatous types and upright and more full in the cane types. The forms of species vary within their genetic makeup.

Substance: The leaves must be fresh and have firm form.

Texture: Leaves may be smooth, ruffled, puckered, and crested on the edges or have a waxy, shiny or mat surface. Some have prominent veining in their foliage.

Size: This can be variable from the new growth to the mature growth with each leaf becoming slightly larger. It should be representative of the cultivar or species.

Health/Blemishes: Deductions are made as appropriate if the foliage or the stem/petioles are damaged with scars, tears, blemishes, etc.

[Plants must be free of disease or pests. If any are found, the plant will be removed from the show.]

Grooming: Foliage damage should be trimmed, if possible. The soil and container should be clean. If ignored, then a minor penalty is applied. No dust should be on the foliage. No detached, loose or dried stipules should be present, but plants with dry, non-deciduous stipules should not be penalized.

Staging: A container of a suitable size for the exhibited plants should be used. The container should be of a neutral color to enhance the begonia and not distract from it. If the begonia is a trailing type, a suggested staging would be on a riser to show this favorable trait. Staking and tying are very important requirements for some varieties. Stakes should not go above the foliage and should be unobtrusive and in scale to the plant.

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